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Cuckfield Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1937

BY

WILLIAM B. STOTT

L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

SOUTHERN PUBLISHING CO., LTD., 130 NORTH ST., BRIGHTON

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URBAN DISTRICT OF CUCKFIELD

REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Urban District Council.

I have the honour to present my fourth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Cuckfield for the year 1937.

Statistics.

The Crude Death Rate is 10.51, and this figure, when adjusted, gives a corrected Death Rate of 7.77, which compares with 8.08 for the previous year, and with 12.4 for England and Wales.

With regard to the deaths that occurred during the year, it is interesting to note that the mean age at death is 63.2. This does not mean, however, that this figure is the expectation of life for a child born in this district, as the figure for the two only coincide in a stationary population unaffected by migration in which the births equal the number of deaths.

Heart and Circulatory Diseases are responsible for 50 per cent. of all deaths. The majority of the deaths occurred in persons over 60 years of age (91 per cent.), the average age of those who died from this cause being 73.

The high death rate from Heart Disease is therefore not alarming, rather the reverse. People have to die of something, and a high death rate from this disease over 60 years of age is rather an indication of good community health, as people are not now dying to the same extent from what might be called preventable diseases. The same may be said of the Cancer death rate which is 1.7, more people living to the age when cancer affects them than formerly.

It is pleasing to record that no deaths occurred during the year from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or Measles.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 50.63, as compared with 58 for the country as a whole.

Health Education.

In a report to the Council on this subject, I pointed out that a public health service could by its activities remedy or improve unsatisfactory conditions, but that health education also played an important part in improving the mode of living of the individual.

It was suggested to the Council that a Health Week be held in conjunction with the Cuckfield Rural and the Burgess Hill Urban District Councils. The Council agreed to the suggestion and resolved to hold the Health Week in the Spring of 1938.

The object of holding a Health Week is to inform the public of the health services available for the prevention and cure of disease and to foster health consciousness in the individual. This may be looked upon as a form of insurance, as from the financial point of view alone a Local Authority will save money if fewer people have to be treated for disease in Municipal and Infectious Disease Hospitals.

It is not easy to measure the results of health education in a District, and it is not possible to do so over a short period of time. It will not be disputed that, compared with say one hundred years ago, there has been great progress in the knowledge of the people concerning health, and there can be no doubt that this knowledge has helped considerably in reducing the mortality and sickness from a large number of diseases.

Another form of health education was to circularise all bakers, pointing out the desirability of wrapping bread. There is no doubt that from the hygienic point of view all loaves should be wrapped and delivered in this state to the consumer. The bakers pointed out that this would entail extra cost, and the increase would have to be borne by the consumer. It is hoped in time the public will see the advantage of having bread wrapped and when that time comes, will demand it.

Milk Supply.

In my Annual Report for 1936 I stated that with two exceptions all milk retailers employed steam as a means of sterilising bottles and utensils.

I am now pleased to report that by the end of the year all the 24 retailers sterilised by steam. In 1934 only one retailer used this method of sterilisation and the others have come into line without the necessity of taking formal action. A considerable improvement in the milk has resulted from this proper sterilisation of utensils and bottles as shown by the results of the analyses taken, the percentage of unsatisfactory samples being very much less than formerly.

Milk Special Designations, Order, 1936.

Section 2 of the Second Schedule to the above Order states that "Adequate measures shall be taken to ensure that the milk to which the licence applies is kept apart from all other milk at all times except when it

is in sealed containers. In particular, any vessel or apparatus which has at any time been used for any other milk shall be thoroughly cleansed and sterilised on each occasion before it is used for the milk to which the licence applies, and no room or compartment of a dairy shall be used at the same time for the milk to which the licence applies and any other milk unless either the former or the latter is in sealed containers."

When a dairyman who sells ordinary milk applies for a licence to bottle graded milk at his premises, it is usual for him to state that he can comply with the above schedule by having the ordinary and graded milks dealt with at different times.

In such cases the Council have granted the necessary licence although it is impossible without constant supervision to ensure that the two kinds of milk are always kept separate.

I am of the opinion that all graded milks should be either bottled at the place of production or at premises where graded milk only is dealt with.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year the Council resolved to offer free facilities for the immunisation of children from 1 year to 14 years of age who attend, or would normally attend, the Elementary Schools in the District. In this scheme the General Practitioners give the injections at the Schools or at their Surgeries, the Council providing the inoculating material (T.A.F.) free of charge and pay the General Practitioners 5s. for each child who receives the three injections.

The Council also resolved that the children who received the injections should be Schick tested in order that any children not protected should receive a further injection.

Leaflets explaining the scheme were circulated through the Schools and Infant Welfare Centres, and this was followed by a visit from the District Nurses to parents who did not at first agree, in order to explain the scheme more fully.

I am pleased to report that an excellent response was received, 84 per cent. of the children attending the Elementary Schools and a number of children under school age being immunised. The parents are to be commended for their willingness in taking advantage of the facilities offered, as there are very few Urban Districts in the Country with so large a percentage of children immunised.

A Schick Test was carried out on the children and it was found that 98 per cent. had been rendered immune by the three injections; those still susceptible receiving a further injection.

During the year only two cases of Diphtheria were notified and these had not been immunised.

Housing.

During the year 141 houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations as compared with 81 in 1936. Of these, 5 were considered not repairable at reasonable cost, and were, together with 9 other houses inspected prior to 1937, represented to the Council. A specification of works to render 4 of the houses fit was accepted by the Council, undertakings that 6 houses should not be used for human habitation were given, and demolition orders were made on the remaining 4 dwellings.

As a result of previous action 12 houses were demolished during the year, 6 in Clearance Areas and 6 consequent upon demolition orders.

No fewer than 1,847 visits to works in progress and re-inspections were made in connection with notices served after housing inspections.

Acknowledgments.

I am indebted to Mr. Staynes, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his loyal co-operation and assistance in the various branches of the work of the Department, and for his help in compiling this report.

My thanks are also due to the other members of the Staff for their support and in particular Miss Everson, my Chief Clerk.

I should also like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their consideration and support in connection with my reports and recommendations.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

W. B. STOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health—WILLIAM B. STOTT, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

(Also Medical Officer of Health to Cuckfield Rural and Burgess Hill Urban District Councils and Assistant School Medical Officer, East Sussex County Council).

Senior Sanitary Inspector—R. STAYNES, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., Certified Meat Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—H. A. OSTLER, M.S.I.A., Certified Meat Inspector.

Chief Clerk—Miss G. L. EVERSON.

Clerk—K. G. RAPLEY.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	...	...	3,895
Population to middle of year	...	...	...	...	...	13,320
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£123,348
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£480
Density of Population (persons per acre)	...	...	...	...	...	3.4
Number of Houses	...	...	...	...	...	3,725
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	...	11.9
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	...	10.51
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	50.63

UNEMPLOYMENT

I am indebted to the Manager of the Local Branch Employment Office of the Ministry of Labour for the following particulars relating to Unemployment during the year :—

		Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.
January	...	76	8	3	3
February	...	45	8	3	—
March	...	88	8	—	—
April	...	52	6	—	—
May	...	38	4	2	1
June	...	22	3	—	1
July	...	40	3	—	—
August	...	36	8	—	1
September	...	41	8	3	4
October	...	60	8	2	3
November	...	58	16	2	3
December	...	41	11	—	3
Total	...	597	91	15	19

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD URBAN DISTRICT

	CAUSES OF DEATH				MALES	FEMALES.
1. Typhoid Fever, &c.	—	—
2. Measles	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Influenza	1	3
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
9. Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	2
10. Other Tuberculosis	—	—
11. Syphilis	—	—
12. General Paralysis of Insane, &c.	—	—
13. Cancer	8	15
14. Diabetes	1	1
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	12
16. Heart Disease	16	26
17. Aneurysm	—	—
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	6	6
19. Bronchitis	3	3
20. Pneumonia	2	1
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	—	2
22. Peptic Ulcer	1	—
23. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	—	1
24. Appendicitis	—	1
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
26. Other Liver Diseases	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	1
28. Nephritis	—	—
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Diseases	—	—
31. Congenital Causes, &c.	2	4
32. Senility	—	3
33. Suicide	1	—
34. Other Violence	2	1
35. Other Defined Causes	6	—
36. Ill-defined Causes	—	—
Totals	57	83

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, and ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
During the Year 1937. (Provisional Figures).

	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.
		All Causes.	Typhoid & Para-	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Influenza.	Diphtheria.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths (under 1 year).	
England and Wales	... ...	14.9	0.60	12.4	0.00	—	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.45	5.8
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	... ...	14.9	0.67	12.5	0.01	—	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.39	7.9
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	... ...	15.3	0.64	11.9	0.00	—	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.42	3.2
London	... ...	13.3	0.54	12.3	0.00	—	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.38	0.51
Cuckfield Urban District	... ...	11.9	0.53	10.51	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.30	0.23
												6.3
												50.63
* Corrected Death Rate.												
Puerperal Sepsis. Others. Total.												
The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales are as follows :—	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{per 1,000 Live Births} \\ \text{per 1,000 Total Births} \end{array} \right.$											
The Maternal Mortality Rates for the Cuckfield Urban District are as follows	... ... Nil.											

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales are as follows :—
The Maternal Mortality Rates for the Cuckfield Urban District are as follows

per 1,000 Live Births	0.97	2.26	3.23
per 1,000 Total Births	0.94	2.17	3.11
Nil.	Nil.	...	Nil.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Births and Birth Rate.

The following Table shows the Births registered for the year 1937 :—

		Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	74	...	75	...	149
Illegitimate	...	4	...	5	...	9
Total	...	78	...	80	...	158

This gives a rate of about 11.9 per 1,000 population.

	Male.		Female.		Total.	
Total Stillbirths	...	2	...	5	...	7
Legitimate	...	2	...	5	...	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—

Deaths and Death Rate.

The following table shows the Deaths registered for the year 1937 :—

Male.	Female.	Total.
57	... 83	... 140

This gives a mortality rate of 10.51 per 1,000 population.

The corrected death rate is 7.77.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

Arrangements are made for the examination of specimens for Diphtheria, Typhoid, Tuberculosis, &c., with the Pathological Department, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton. Medical practitioners send the specimens direct to the Laboratory and they receive the report by telephone, a copy of such report being sent to this office.

Bacteriological examinations of milk, water, bathing pools, &c., are carried out by the Clinical Research Association, London.

Laboratory Reports.

General Practitioners and Medical Officer of Health	Isolation Hospital	Swabs for Diphtheria.		Total.
		Positive.	Negative.	
...	...	—	7	...
...	...	8	21	29

Ambulance Facilities.

A Motor Ambulance is attached to the Isolation Hospital for the removal of cases of infectious disease.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Infant Welfare Centres.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

Tuberculosis Clinic. Oaklands, Haywards Heath. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.

Dental Clinic.

Haywards Heath. Oaklands, Haywards Heath. As and when arranged.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Burgess Hill ... "Windermere," Mill Road.
East Grinstead... Railway Approach.

Eye Refraction Clinics.

Brighton ... Sussex Eye Hospital.
Haywards Heath King Edward VII. Memorial (Eliot) Hospital.

DEAN'S FARM ISOLATION HOSPITAL

This Hospital is now administered by the Mid-Sussex Joint Hospital Board, composed of Members of this Council, the Cuckfield Rural and Burgess Hill Urban District Councils. The Hospital serves the needs of these three Districts.

Medical Superintendent—Dr. W. B. STOTT.

Visiting Physician—Dr. GOWLAND HOPKINS.

Matron—Miss N. WILCOX.

I am indebted to the Matron for the particulars relating to the various cases.

The following are details of the cases admitted :—

Area.	...	Scarlet				Totals.
		Fever.	Diphtheria	Pemphigus	Meningitis	
Cuckfield R.D.C.	...	34	{ 3 1 carrier	1	1	40
Cuckfield U.D.C.	...	5	2	—	—	7
Burgess Hill U.D.C.	...	1	2	—	1	4
Horsham R.D.C.	...	8	2	—	—	10
Totals	...	48	10	1	2	61

Ages of Patients :—

Up to 10 years	...	21	2	1	—
10 to 15 years	...	15	3	—	—
15 to 20 years	...	8	1	—	2
Over 20 years	...	4	4	—	—
Totals	...	48	10	1	2

One death occurred from Meningitis.

Average stay per patient, 33.41 days.

Smallpox.

Cases of Smallpox are sent to the Sedgebrook Smallpox Hospital, Plumpton, which has accommodation for ten cases and is administered by the East Sussex Western Smallpox Hospital Committee.

Seven other Sanitary Authorities send their cases to this Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1). Water Supply.

The Mid-Sussex Joint Water Board supply the whole District with water, with the exception of a few isolated houses which have their own wells. The source of the main supply is from deep bores at Horsted Keynes and Balcombe.

The Clinical Research Association Ltd.,
Watergate House,
York Buildings,
Adelphi,
London, W.C.2.

MID-SUSSEX JOINT WATER BOARD. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

ANALYSIS (B).					Parts per	Grains per
					100,000	Gallon.
Total Solids (dried at 180°C)	...	...	...	17.5	...	12.3
Combined Chlorine	...	...	...	2.00	...	1.40
equivalent to Na. Cl.	...	...	...	3.30	...	2.31
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	0.04	...	0.03
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	Nil.	...	Nil.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.0005	...	0.0004
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.0009	...	0.0006
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	...	...	0.005	...	0.004
Lead or Copper	...	...	...	Nil.	...	Nil.
Temporary Hardness (equivalent to Ca Co ₃)	...	...	...	9.3	...	6.5
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	Nil.	...	Nil.
Total Hardness	...	...	...	9.3	...	6.5

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.

(1).—QUANTITATIVE.

The average number of organisms, producing visible colonies on gelatine plates incubated at 20°C for three days, is found to be 7 per c.c.

The average number of organisms, producing visible colonies on agar plates incubated at 37.5°C. for two days, is found to be less than 1 per c.c.

(2).—QUALITATIVE.

B. Coli not found in 100 c.c.

Streptococci not found in 30 c.c.

Cl. Welchii (Spores) not found in 100 c.c.

The results show this water to be of very good quality and quite satisfactory for drinking purposes.

(Signed) D. M. LIVOCK,
Secretary.

(2) Drainage.

The testing of drains and the supervision of drainage works occupies much of your Sanitary Inspectors' time. The drainage systems of 73 houses were tested in connection with inspections under the Housing Acts; 23 as a result of complaints or unsatisfactory conditions discovered when supervising builders' works, and the drains of 4 houses were tested upon request of intending purchasers, a sum being charged for making the latter tests.

In all, the drains of 100 premises were tested and at 98 defects were found. All new drains constructed are subjected to a water test, soil pipes and ventilation shafts being smoke tested. During the year 280 water tests and 176 smoke tests were applied.

(3). Sewage Disposal.

I am indebted to Mr. Plummer, Surveyor to the Council, for the following particulars relating to Sewage Disposal and Public Cleansing.

There are three sewage disposal works serving the District as follows :—

Haywards Heath.—Sewage Farm is situated about three miles from Haywards Heath and is about 40 acres in extent. The sewage is passed through settling tanks and afterwards treated on about 35 acres of land by broad irrigation. The effluent is discharged into the river Ouse. The stream is fished for trout and other fish. The Council during the year installed two Dortmund tanks, each 24ft. square by 23ft. deep, giving a total capacity of 90,000, gallons and a commencement was also made with the construction of two additional percolating filters, each 65ft diameter. These additions are part of a comprehensive scheme for the re-modelling of the system of Sewage Disposal at these works.

Cuckfield.—Sewage Works are situated about $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile south of the town. The works were reconstructed about six years ago, and the system consists of settling tanks, followed by treatment on sprinkling filters and humus tanks. The effluent then flows direct to stream.

The effluent is good. No complaints have been received.

Lindfield.—These works are situated to the north of the Lewes Road and are about 200 yards distant from the nearest house. They were reconstructed about six years ago. The system consists of settling tanks, sprinkling filters and humus tanks. The effluent is good and no complaints have been received.

(4). Closet Accommodation.

Number of houses with Pail Closets...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number of Pail Closets converted to W.C.'s.	...	...	...	...	...	3

All other houses (3,708) are provided with W.C.'s.

(5). Public Cleansing.

Refuse is removed once weekly from all the houses in the District. Two 2-ton "Morris" lorries are engaged in this work. The lorries are provided with steel sliding covers to prevent refuse blowing about. About 2,000 tons of refuse are removed in a year, the quantity, of course, being on the increase owing to growth of population.

Trade refuse is also removed from the shops by a "Dennis" lorry fitted with a steel sliding cover.

About 25 per cent. of the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Lindfield Sewage Farm, another 25 per cent. is taken to Cuckfield Sewage Farm, where it is screened and the light portion burnt, and the remaining 50 per cent. is disposed of in Haywards Heath by burning in a 1-cell Refuse Destructor. No complaints of any of the disposal works have been received.

All houses in the district are now provided with sanitary dust bins.

(6). Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(a) Visits.

The following table shows the number of visits made in connection with the Sanitary Inspection of the District during the year 1937.

HOUSING ACTS.

Primary visits 161
 Re-visits and visits to works in progress 2001

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Primary visits 245
 Re-visits and visits to works in progress 1099

SHOPS ACT, 1934 (Section 10)

MISCELLANEOUS.

Visits to Slaughterhouses and Shops to inspect meat	...	...	963
re Infectious Disease	...	...	23
Inspections of Cowsheds	...	...	101
,, Dairies	...	...	91
,, Factories	...	...	21
,, Workshops	...	...	69
,, Bakehouses	...	...	54
,, Other Food Premises	...	...	115
,, Cattle Market	...	...	3
,, Rat Infestation	...	...	313
Miscellaneous	...	...	63
Total	...	...	5613

(b) Notices.

Number of Notices outstanding at end of 1936	...	...	...	134
Number of Notices issued during 1937 :—				
(a) Preliminary	...	...	...	369
(b) Statutory	...	...	...	3
Number of Notices complied with during 1937 :—				
(a) Preliminary	...	...	...	367
(b) Statutory—By Owners	...	...	...	4
By Local Authority	...	...	...	—
Number of Notices outstanding at end of 1937	...	...	...	132

(c) Works Supervised During the Year.

EXTERNAL.

Eaves Gutters and Downpipes provided	...	...	...	...	52
Eaves gutters and downpipes cleared, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	41
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	...	...	4
Yards and footpaths paved	...	...	...	...	57
Yards and footpaths repaved	...	...	...	...	29
Yards and footpaths repaired	...	...	...	...	9
External paintwork renewed	...	...	...	...	20

DAMPNESS ABATED.

Damp proof courses inserted in walls	...	...	...	...	84
External walls rendered	...	...	...	...	35
External walls repointed or repaired	...	...	...	...	81
Cavities cleared	...	...	...	...	11
Damp proof floors constructed	...	...	...	...	62
Sites concreted	...	...	...	...	31
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	55

INTERNAL.

Window frames and sashes renewed	...	...	...	...	30
Window frames and sashes repaired	...	...	...	...	119
Windows enlarged	...	...	...	...	35
Natural lighting provided to staircases	...	...	...	...	45
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	...	47
Stairs, treads, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Means of permanent ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	132
Ventilated foodstores provided	...	...	...	...	68
Doors, frames and sills repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	47
Wall plaster repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	91
Ceiling plaster repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	119
Rooms re-decorated	...	...	...	...	213
New wooden floors provided	...	...	...	...	29
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	30
Firegrates and ranges renewed	...	...	...	...	17
Firegrates and ranges repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	14

DRAINAGE AND WATER SUPPLY.

Houses redrained	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Additional drains connected to existing system	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New soil and ventilation pipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Soil and ventilation pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Cesspools abolished and houses drained to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pail closets abolished and water closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sewage disposal plants repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water Services improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Main water laid on	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

SANITARY FITTINGS.

Additional waterclosets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Defective and insanitary watercloset pans replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Waterclosets abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water supply and flushing cisterns provided to waterclosets	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Watercloset compartments repaired or re-decorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
New sinks with trapped waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Sink and bath wastes trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Sink surrounds tiled	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
New baths provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
New lavatory basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Urinals provided or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

MISCELLANEOUS.

Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New wash-houses built	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Wash-houses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Obstructive buildings removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rat Infestations abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Flooding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Coal stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Unclassified	...	...	...	...	...	...	41

(d) Complaints.

The number of complaints received was 27 fewer than in the previous year, 103 as compared with 130. There were 35 complaints of rat infestation, this being 13 less than during 1936 and 73 less than in 1935.

DETAILS OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

Rat Infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Defective housing conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Offensive Smells	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Overflowing cesspools...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Flooding	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Verminous houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

(7) Shops Act, 1934.

Two hundred and ninety-one visits were made to ensure that the provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934 (relating to the health and comfort of shopworkers), were complied with.

As a result of these inspections some 60 preliminary and 1 statutory notices were served and below is a list of improvements effected :—

Heating apparatus provided	...	...	...	...	...	31
Ventilation of shop improved	...	...	...	...	...	1

WASHING FACILITIES.

Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	...	11
Sinks or lavatory basins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Waste pipes trapped	...	...	...	...	...	1

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Additional waterclosets erected	...	...	...	...	...	5
Watercloset pans renewed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Unsatisfactory closets abolished	...	...	...	...	...	1
Watercloset compartments repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Watercloset compartments re-decorated	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water supply and flushing apparatus provided to waterclosets						16
Additional light and ventilation provided to watercloset compartments	...	...	...	...	...	4
Intervening ventilated space provided between watercloset and shop	...	...	...	...	...	2
Means of access to watercloset improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premises re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Soil pipes ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	1

One Certificate of Exemption from the provision of sanitary accommodation was granted.

(8) Bathing Pools.

Samples of water were taken from bathing pools attached to private schools and a hotel, all being satisfactory.

The first sample taken from the Cuckfield Bathing Pool, which is supplied with water from a stream, was unsatisfactory. Chlorine is added to this pool in order to make the water safe for bathing, and following the unsatisfactory sample the dose of chlorine was increased and subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory. The chlorine in the pool is so regulated that not more than .6 parts per million of available chlorine is present in the water.

(9) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Council Houses found to be infested	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of other houses found to be infested	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of houses disinfested	...	...	...	Nil.

No special precautions are taken to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses.

When necessary, disinfection work is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department and liquid insecticides are used.

No measures by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing have been necessary.

Three flea infested rooms were disinfected during the year, a liquid insecticide (Pyagra) being used, and no re-infestation occurred.

(10) Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The number of complaints of rat infestation have of recent years, shown a gradual decline, 35 being received during 1937, 48 during 1936 and 108 during 1935. The Council continue to offer the services of a man trained in the laying of rat baits, a charge being made to cover the cost of baits used and the man's time. The Council's Refuse Tips receive regular attention and all premises known to have been rat infested are visited during National Rat Week.

HOUSING

I. INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	294
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	3,336
(2) (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	141
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	1,988
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	288

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	253
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By Owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	I
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By Owners	I
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, Part IV.—OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	16
(ii.) Number of families dwelling therein	17
(iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein	71
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil.
(c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil.
(ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil.
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	Nil.

5. NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1937 :—

(1) State aided :	
(a) By Local Authority	24
(b) By Private Enterprise (Public Utility Societies, &c.) ...	Nil.
(2) Without State aid	203
Total	<u>227</u>

6. HOUSING CONDITIONS :—

(1) Total number of Houses in the District	3,725
(2) Number of Working Class Houses (included in above) ...	2,326

The Council are at present erecting 32 houses and 8 flats, and a number of these houses will be used to provide accommodation for persons displaced from individual unfit houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

I. MILK SUPPLY.

Milk Samples.

Forty-six samples of milk were taken from producers and retailers and sent to the South-Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, for a bacteriological analysis and for the application of the Methylene Blue Reductase Test.

Of these 26 were from producers, 7 (26.9 per cent.) were unsatisfactory, 4 having counts of over 200,000 organisms per c.c., 5 containing coliform organisms in 1/100th c.c. and 6 failing the Methylene Blue Test.

Of the 20 samples from Retailers, 5 (25 per cent.) were unsatisfactory, 5 having counts of over 200,000, 4 containing coliform organisms and 4 failing the Methylene Blue Test.

In addition to the above, 177 samples were obtained and submitted to the Methylene Blue Reductase Test in the Council's Laboratory. Of these, 47 were from producers, 16 failing to pass the test. Of the 130 samples from retailers, 19 failed to pass the test. When a producer retailer's sample fails to pass the test, samples are obtained from his place of production and this accounts for the rather high number of producers' samples that failed to pass the test, as once a supply is found unsatisfactory it is concentrated upon until the source of the trouble has been eradicated.

Five samples of milk were taken for a biological examination for the presence of tuberculosis, all being reported negative.

During the year 101 visits were made to the 15 Dairy Farms and 91 to the 18 Retail Dairies on the Register. Below are details of improvements effected :—

Number of Cowkeepers on Register	...	...	...	...	15
„ Inspections	...	...	...	...	101
„ Milch Cows in District (approx.)	...	...	...	...	300
The veterinary inspection is carried out by the County Council.					
Number of Retailers on Register	...	...	...	...	24
„ Inspections	...	...	...	...	91
„ Retail Dairies	...	...	...	...	18
„ Retailers with Steam Sterilisation Plant	...	...	...	...	24

LICENCES GRANTED FOR SALE OF MILK UNDER SPECIAL DESIGNATION.

Tuberculin Tested (Certified)—Dealers	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculin Tested—Dealers	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculin Tested (Bottling Licence)	...	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	...	...	...	...	2

COWSHEDS.

Steam sterilisation plants provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Coolers provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cowshed widened	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lighting and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sheds provided with drinking bowls	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sheds provided with new floors, standings and channels	...	...	...	...	...	3
Approaches to cowsheds paved	...	...	...	...	...	4
New mangers provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sheds fitted with tubular metal divisions	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowshed walls rendered	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty cowsheds cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	1

DAIRIES.

Contraventions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, abated	...	...	...	...	...	3
Vehicles provided with name and address of vendor	...	...	...	...	...	3
Steam Sterilisation Plants provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
New Dairy erected	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairy closed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Minor Contraventions of Milk and Dairies Order abated	...	...	...	...	...	5

2. ICE CREAM.

Eighteen samples of ice-cream were taken for Bacteriological Examinations. Nine were satisfactory in that the Bacterial Counts were low and absence of Coliform Organisms. Of the remainder 3 had bacterial counts over 200,000 per c.c. and coliform organisms present, 5 had low bacterial counts but coliform organisms present, and one had a high bacterial count with coliform organisms absent. Eight of the unsatisfactory samples were from locally made ice-cream and advice was given as to the need for cleanliness in preparation and for the thorough cleansing and sterilisation of all utensils.

3. MEAT.

(a) Slaughterhouses.

At the end of the Licensing Period (31st March, 1937), one slaughterhouse was put into disuse on account of its unsatisfactory structural condition.

It was necessary in one instance to request the occupier of a slaughterhouse to arrange for the periodic removal of refuse; otherwise the slaughterhouses were well managed during the year.

(b) **Meat Inspection.**

The number of visits made to Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops for the purpose of Meat Inspection was 963, as compared with 1,330 in 1936, the number of carcases examined being 547 fewer than in 1936.

The reduction in the number of animals slaughtered locally is accounted for (1) by an outbreak of foot and mouth disease closing the local market and (2) an increased demand for chilled imported meat.

The number of carcases inspected included *all* animals slaughtered within the Urban Area and 166 carcases brought into Butchers' Shops from other Districts.

Very little Ante Mortem inspection of animals is carried out.

On two occasions information regarding farms from which animals were sent into this area and later condemned on account of Generalised Tuberculosis was passed to the County Council. The receipt of this information is followed by a visit of the County Veterinary Officer to the farms, and in one instance resulted in the removal from the herd of a cow which upon post mortem examination showed advanced Tuberculosis with lesions present in the udder.

The following are the details of the diseased or unsound food condemned :—

Bovines.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Whole carcases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Forequarter, lungs and heart	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Head, tongue, liver, heart and mesentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Head, tongue, lungs, liver and heart	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Head, tongue and mesentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Heads and tongues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Lungs, liver and mesentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lungs, liver and skirt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lungs and liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mesentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I

OTHER DISEASES.

Head and tongue	...	...	...	...	...	I	Actinomycosis
Lungs, heart and skirt	...	...	...	...	...	I	Abscess
Liver and skirt	...	...	...	...	...	I	Abscess
Mesentery	...	...	...	...	...	I	Parasitic
17 Livers	...	...	...	...	...	I4	Cirrhosis
						3	Abcesses
Portion of Rib	...	...	...	...	...	I	Fracture

Calves.**TUBERCULOSIS.**

Whole carcase	I
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

OTHER DISEASES.

Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I Abscess
Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I Abscess

Pigs.**TUBERCULOSIS.**

Whole carcases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Forequarter, head, tongue and pluck	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Head, tongue, pluck and mesentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Head, tongue and pluck	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Head, tongue and mesentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Head and tongue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Mesentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

OTHER DISEASES.

Whole Carcasses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	Pleurisy and Peritonitis
Loins, streakies and kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Cystic Kidney
Udder and portion of flank	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Abscess
18 livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	Cirrhosis
							1	Parasitic
							2	Necrosis
Lungs and heart	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	Pleurisy and Pericarditis
Lungs, heart and liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Pleurisy and Pericarditis
28 lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	Inflammation
							6	Pleurisy
							8	Pneumonia
Heart	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Pericarditis
5 kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	Cysts
							2	Nephritis
Spleens	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	Abnormality
Leg	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Bruising

Sheep.**OTHER DISEASES.**

Whole carcases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Moribund
Forequarter	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	Pleurisy
Livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	Parasitic
Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	Parasitic

IMPORTED MEAT, 106 lbs.

MEAT

Carcases of Animals Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle (excluding cows).	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	209	2	322	947	1293
Number Inspected	211	4	334	980	1335
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	22	—	2	20	63
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	10.4	—	0.59	2.1	4.8
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	—	1	—	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	14	1	—	—	68
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.1	25.0	0.29	—	5.5

4. Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

There was no serious contravention of the above Regulations during 1937, and I am pleased to say that Butchers are continuing to protect meat exposed for sale from contamination by the proper use of their shop windows.

5. Other Foods.

Frequent visits are made to all premises where food is prepared or sold and the following improvements were obtained during the year.

Rooms cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New sinks provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New sanitary dustbins provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulations removed ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Thirty-five pounds of unsound fish were voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

Only 5 cases were notified, 4 being removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria.

Only 2 cases were notified, neither having been immunised.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

Two cases occurred at a private residential school, one having rather extensive paralysis.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diseases	Total.	Admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths.
		
Scarlet Fever	5	4	...	—
Diphtheria	2	2	...	—
Paratyphoid	1	1	...	—
Erysipelas	5	—	...	—
Pneumonia	2	—	...	1
Puerperal Fever	1	—	...	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—	...	—
Dysentery	1	—	...	—

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Diseases.	Age Groups										Totals.
	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals	—	—	1	—	5	2	2	4	2	5	21

HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

Cases removed to the Isolation Hospital in their respective months.

Notifiable Diseases.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	I	2	—	4
Paratyphoid	—	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	I	—	2
Totals ...	... —	— I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3 — 7

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATION

		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
January	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	...	—	2	—	—	—	2
March	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	...	I	—	—	—	I	—
June	...	—	I	—	—	—	I
July	...	—	—	I	—	I	—
August	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
September	...	2	—	—	—	2	—
October	...	I	I	I	—	2	I
November	...	—	—	—	I	—	I
December	...	—	I	I	I	I	2
Total	...	4	5	3	2	7	7

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

30

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0-1	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	2	1	—	—
25-35	1	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	1	—	—	—
45-55	1	—	—	1	—
55-65	2	—	—	1	—
65 and over	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	4	5	3	2	1	2

One non-notified tuberculosis death, giving a ration of 1-3. Letter sent to the general practitioner concerned.

Disinfection.

Rooms are disinfected by the use of a Formalin Spray and vapour, whilst clothing and bedding is disinfected by steam at the Isolation Hospital.

Other Disinfections.

For disinfection after non-infectious disease, a charge is made to cover the cost of materials used and the man's time.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

I.—INSPECTIONS.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	57	3	—
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries)	79	5	—
WORKPLACES (other than Outworkers' Premises) ...	9	—	—
Total	145	8	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			No. of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Reme- died. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	7	7
Want of Ventilation	3	2
Overcrowding	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	...	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	10	7
Sanitary Accommodation.	Insufficient ... Unsuitable or Defective ... Not separate for sexes ...	— — —	1 2	1 2
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—
<i>Other Offences :</i>				
(Excluding offences relating to out-work)	—	—
Total	23	19

Two complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories and the necessary action was taken to secure the remedy of the unsatisfactory conditions.

